

Haiku

- A Japanese poem that is always written about nature.
- The syllable pattern is 5 in the first line, 7 in the second line, and 5 in the third line

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 --*--*--*--*--*--*--
 --*--*--*--*--

From all directions
 Winds bring petals of cherry
 Into the grebe lake.

Bitter-tasting ice —
 Just enough to wet the throat
 Of a sewer rat.

As the wind does blow
 Across the trees, I see the
 Buds blooming in May

My grumblng wife--
 If only she were here!
 The moon tonight...

Ms. Romito's attempt

Blistering summers
 tempered by the damp and cool
 of monsoon season

Senryu

- The subject is about human nature, usually in a satirical or ironic sense
- The syllable count is similar to the haiku, but the senryu can have less than seventeen syllables. Never more.

practice more evil
if you have a charred black soul
hell will wait for you

Manicured -
Can't touch her 'til the tips
are dry

The robber,
If I catch,
My own son

Hide and seek
Count to three
Winter comes

Ms. Romito's attempt

The golden rule
Nothing to do with real gold
Can't find it in a bank

Tanka

- The subject can be about anything
- Same as the haiku with two additional lines of 7 syllables each

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 --*--*--*--*--*--
 --*--*--*--*--
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What are they to me,
 Silver, or gold, or jewels?
 How could they ever
 Equal the greater treasure
 That is a child? They can not

Carefully I walk
 Trying so hard to be brave
 They all see my fear
 Dark glasses cover their eyes
 As mine flow over with tears

The moonlight's shining
 On the gardenia bush
 But all blossoms gone;
 Yet in my mind's eye appear
 The ravishing white visions.

Ms. Romito's attempt

Standing at the front
 Of a classroom brimming with
 Staring eyes and dead.
 How to bring them back to life?
 Get them to think on their own.